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Letter dated 4 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the delegations of Chile, Mexico and Ukraine, I have the honour to transmit herewith a joint declaration of our States, as countries that have voluntarily taken concrete steps to eliminate the use of highly enriched uranium for civilian purposes (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

10-57000 (E) 071010

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Annex to the letter dated 4 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint declaration by the delegations of Chile, Mexico and Ukraine

The delegations of Chile, Mexico and Ukraine, as countries that have voluntarily taken concrete steps to eliminate the use of highly enriched uranium for civilian purposes, would like to state the following:

In recent years, the possibility of non-State actors acquiring nuclear materials to carry out acts of nuclear terrorism has become one of the most challenging threats to international peace and security.

It is thus necessary to consolidate a robust international system and to strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks to effectively maintain the security of all nuclear materials.

We reaffirm our will to work together for our common security, including the fulfilment of the commitments made at the Washington Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010, and especially to work on securing vulnerable nuclear materials.

The decision of our countries to eliminate the use of highly enriched uranium is a significant contribution to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. These measures taken by non-nuclear-weapon States are an example of concrete steps towards reducing the nuclear threat. But in order to make a safer world for all, it is necessary for the nuclear-weapon States to also take concrete steps towards the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner, leading towards the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

We welcome the positive steps in the sphere of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and will follow up on the actions agreed by consensus. We call upon all States that are not parties to the NPT to ratify it promptly and without conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States in order to achieve universality.

We call upon the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their obligations under article VI of the NPT and to accelerate the implementation of practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed in the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, including the unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

We call upon States that have not yet done so to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and to consider signing and ratifying an additional protocol.

The achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons will require the full compliance of all States with the legal framework encompassing all international treaties and agreements on this matter.

Our countries have demonstrated that, when there is political will, actions can be taken to make the world a safer place, and that we will spare no effort to pursue this objective. We are jointly resolved to achieve the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons. We firmly hold that the post-nuclear era must start now.